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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER	
PATEL, DHIRUBHAI R	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2831	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/761,815	MARSH ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	DHIRU R. PATEL	2831	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10/30/07 RCE

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application f

1. Claims 1-2, 13-18, 20-22, 25 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tamer (4,956,561).

Tamer discloses:

Regarding claim 1, an electronic assembly, which comprises:

a wiring harness 58,60 (see fig 3); connectors 45,47,49 (see fig 3 and entire column4) connected to the wiring harness (see fig 3); and a body 40 molded on the wiring harness to, simultaneously, completely encapsulate the wiring harness and provide access to the connectors (see figs 3-7, and entire columns 3-5).

Regarding claim 2, wherein the molded body comprises a plastic material (see column 4 lines 22-30, please note that Tamer disclosed that other materials can be used for a body, therefore, it meet the structural limitations).

Regarding claim 13, wherein said connectors are molded into the molded body (see fig 3).

Regarding claim14, wherein said wiring harness includes a plurality of ends that are

each connected to one of said connectors (see fig 3).

Regarding claim15, wherein said wiring harness includes three ends (see fig 3).

Regarding claim 16, wherein the mounting fixtures are molded into the molded body (see fig 3).

Regarding claim17, a plurality of connectors 45, 47, 49 (see fig 3 and entire column4); a wiring harness 58,60 connected to said plurality of connectors (see fig 3 and entire column 4), and a body 40 molded on the wiring harness to, simultaneously, completely encapsulate said wiring harness and to cover a portion of each of said plurality of connectors so as to provide access to each of the plurality of connectors (see fig 3 and entire columns 3-5), wherein said molded body has sufficient strength and hardness to act as a frame that is configured to firmly hold said plurality of connectors and said wiring harness as one piece (see figs 3-7, and entire columns 3-5).

Regarding claim18, wherein said molded body includes a base portion that extends between said plurality of connectors (see fig 3).

Regarding claim 20, an electronic assembly comprising:

a plurality of connectors 45,47,49 (see fig 3 and entire column 4) ; a wiring harness 58,60 connected to said plurality of connectors (see fig 3 and entire column 4), and a body 40 molded on the wiring harness to, simultaneously, completely encapsulate said wiring harness and to cover a portion of each of said plurality of connectors so as to provide access to each of the plurality of connectors (see fig 3 and entire columns 3-5), said molded body including a base portion that extends between said plurality of connectors (see fig 3 and entire column 4).

Regarding claim 21, an electronic assembly comprising: a plurality of connectors 45,47,49 (see fig 3 and entire column 4); a wiring harness 58, 60 connected to said plurality of connectors (see fig 3), and a body 40,42 molded on the wiring harness to, simultaneously, completely encapsulate said wiring harness and to cover a portion of each of said plurality of connectors so as to provide access to each of the plurality of connectors (see fig 3 and entire columns 3-5), wherein at least two of the plurality of connectors are connected to each other (see fig 3 and entire column 4).

Regarding claim 22, wherein the molded body comprises a plastic material (see column 4 lines 22-30, please note that Tamer disclosed that other materials can be used for a body, therefore, it meet the structural limitations).

Regarding claim 25, wherein the wiring harness includes wiring bundles that interconnect the connectors (see fig 3).

Regarding claim 27, wherein the body has sufficient strength and hardness to act as a frame that is configured to firmly hold the connectors and the wiring harness as one piece (see fig 3 and entire columns 3-5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a

whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

2. Claims 3-5, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Tamer (4,956,561) in view of Becker (5,107,989).

Tamer discloses:

Regarding claims 3-4 and 23, the assembly of tamer discloses all the features of the claimed invention as shown above, but fails to disclose a conductive coating on the outer surface of the molded body for claims 3 and 23. Becker teaches the use of a body (a conventional box, see column 3 line 29) with the coating on the exterior surface of the illustrative box is electrically conductive (see column3 lines 55-57) in order to provide a conductive path to ground for dissipating any electrostatic charges on the box whenever it comes into contact with a ground surface (see column 3 lines 55-62), Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

was made to provide the assembly of Tamer with a conductive coating on the outer surface of the molded body as taught by Becker in order to provide a conductive path to ground for dissipating any electrostatic charges on the box whenever it comes into contact with a ground surface. With respect to claim 4, the conductive coating 30 (see column 4 lines 1-15 of Becker).

Regarding claim 5, It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the modified assembly of Tamer with the conductive coating comprises a metallic layer applied to the outer surface of the molded body, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. In re Leshin, 125 USPQ 416.

3. Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Tamer (4,956,561) in view of Morrow (5, 5 41,457).

Tamer discloses:

Regarding claims 8-10, the assembly Tamer discloses all the features of the claimed invention as shown above, but fails to disclose a socket affixed to the molded body, the socket being connected to the wiring harness (for claim 8) and the socket is adapted to receive a relay (for claim 9) and the relay is connected to said socket

(for claim 10). Morrow teaches the use of a box 10 with relay 17 is plugged into socket 18 (see fig 5 and column 8 lines 5-40) in order to prevent damage internally during soldering operation (see column 8 lines 38-42). Therefore, It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the

assembly of Tamer with a socket affixed to the molded body and the socket is adapted to receive a relay and the relay being connected to said socket as taught by Morrow in order to prevent damage internally during soldering operation. With respect to the socket being connected to the wiring harness, it is noted that the modified assembly of Tamer meet the structural limitations.

4. Claims 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Tamer (4,956,561) in view of Lockwood et al (5, 013,872).

Tamer discloses:

Regarding claim 11, the modified assembly Tamer discloses all the features of the claimed invention as shown above, but fails to disclose shielding. Lockwood teaches the use of shielding 22 for a wiring harness encapsulated within the molded body (see fig s 1-2 of Lockwood et al). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the assembly of Tamer with shielding as taught by Lockwood et al in order to provide a grounding connection.

Regarding claim 12, the modified assembly of Tamer disclose all the features of the claimed invention as shown above, including wherein said shielding includes a conductive material surrounding the wiring harness (see entire column 2 of Lockwood et al).

5. Claims 6-7, 19, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Tamer (4,956,561) in view of Natsume (5, 764,487).

Tamer discloses:

Regarding claims 6 -7, 19 and 24, the assembly Tamer discloses all the features of the claimed invention as shown above, but fails to disclose a mounting fixture connected to the molded body (for claim 6), and the mounting fixture includes a ground connection (for claim 7), and a plurality of mounting fixtures that are molded into the molded body .(for claim 19), and a mounting fixture molded into the molded body (for claim 24). Natsume teaches the use of a mounting fixture 23 molded into a molded body 24 (see fig 2) in order to secure the junction box 10 to the structure of the vehicle (see column 3 lines 29-35). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the assembly of Tamer with a mounting fixture connected to the molded body (for claim 6), and the mounting fixture includes a ground connection (for claim 7), and a plurality of mounting fixtures that are molded into the molded body (for claim 19), and a mounting fixture molded into the molded body (for claim 24) as taught by Natsume in order to secure the body to the structure, such as a vehicle.

6. Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Tamer (4,956,561) in view of O' Brien et al (6,120,327).

Tamer discloses:

Regarding claim 26, the assembly Tamer discloses all the features of the claimed invention as shown above, but fails to injecting a material in the mold. O'Brien teach the use of an injecting a material in the mold 20 (see fig 1 and column 2 lines 50-67), it is well known in the electrical art to use an injecting a material in a mold as evidence by

O' Brien et al and it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to use an injecting a material in the mold, since applicant has not disclosed that an injecting a material in the mold solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the invention would perform equally well with if designed with an injecting a material in the mold of Tamer.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DHIRU R. PATEL whose telephone number is 571-272-1983. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH, 6:30 TO 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego Gutierrez can be reached on 571-272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Dhiru R Patel 1/18/08

DHIRU R PATEL
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2831

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